

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission  
**Meeting Minutes for August 8, 1996**

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Richard H. Thibedeau	Designee, Department of Environmental Management
Marilyn Contreas	Designee, EOCD Secretary
David Terry	Designee, Department of Environmental Protection
Lee Corte-Real	Designee, Department of Food and Agriculture
Joseph M. McGinn	Designee, Metropolitan District Commission
Karen Pelto	Designee, Department of Fisheries Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement
Paul Bucknam	Public Member

**Others in Attendance:**

Lou Wagner	Massachusetts Audubon
Michele Drury	DEM, Office of Water Resources
Vicki Gartland	DEM, Office of Water Resources
Mike Gildesgame	DEM, Office of Water Resources
Gretchen Roorbach	MWRA
Maurice Hall	MWRA
Marie Studer	Mass Bays Program
Sarah Weinstein	DEP/Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
Mary Ann Nelson	DEM, Legal Office

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Agenda Item #2: Staff Reports:

**A. Corps of Engineers Section 22 and FPMS Studies** Gildesgame reported that the Army Corps of Engineers has funding for planning assistance in carrying out studies under Section 22 and the Flood Plain Management Studies programs. There is a notice in the MEPA monitor with information on the process for submitting study proposals. The deadline for submitting study proposals is August 29, 1996. The commission will review the proposals on September 12, 1996, vote on the prioritization of the proposals at the October meeting, and will recommended the Secretary forward the list to the Army Corps.

**B. Drought Preparedness Meeting** Gildesgame reported on the activities of the Drought Preparedness Task Force. The group decided that the emphasis of drought preparedness should be to have communities plan for their own water supply needs within a regional approach. A first priority is to identify communities most at risk during a drought period, define criteria for including communities in this list and identify measures that could assist them in maintaining adequate supplies while providing protection to potentially-affected natural resources. In addition, for all communities, the task force will recommend drought preparedness actions.

The task force also discussed WSCAC's proposed legislation which would empower communities to act on a drought emergency without going to Town Meeting or DEP and which would empower DEP to step in when a withdrawal is having a negative environmental impact.

**C. Water Rates Laws Discussion** Nelson presented a summary of water rate laws for private and public water supplies. There are approximately 30 private companies regulated by DPU. The DPU has a policy of basing rates on costs which tend to decrease as demand increases. This policy can result in decreasing block rates. It was suggested that the WRC could meet with the DPU to look into changing this policy. However, it was also suggested that the number of customers, types of uses and costs of treatment as well as the potential for water savings be evaluated before pursuing a policy change.

DEP regulates public water suppliers. These water suppliers are prohibited by law from charging decreasing block rates. MWRA does not have a policy requiring communities to charge increasing block rates.

Agenda Item #1: Adoption of the Minutes of July 11, 1996 meeting

A motion was made by Bucknam and seconded by Corte-Real to

ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 11, 1996.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #3: Amendment of 314 CMR 4.00, Surface Water Quality Standards, to include Silver Lake

Terry explained that Silver Lake was mistakenly omitted from the list of Outstanding Resource Waters which includes all surface water used for public water supplies. He requested that it be added to the list.

A motion was made by Buckman and seconded by McGinn to

AMEND THE 314 CMR 4.00, SURFACE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, TO INCLUDE  
SLIVER LAKE.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #4: Interbasin Transfer Request by MDC for wastewater facilities serving Holden, West Boylston.

Drury gave a brief summary of the project proposal and staff recommendation. MDC wants to sewer certain portions of Holden and West Boylston in the Nashua River Basin and send the wastewater to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District in the Blackstone River Basin. Because the sewerage would not increase the interceptor capacity, the staff recommended that the IBT does not apply.

A motion was made by Terry and seconded by Bucknam to

ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION THAT THE INTERBASIN TRANSFER ACT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE HOLDEN, WEST BOYLSTON SEWER EXPANSION PROJECT AS PROPOSED BY THE MDC.

**The motion passed unanimously.** (Note that McGinn representing the MDC abstained from the vote.)

| Agenda Item #5: Status of Implementation of the Dissolved Metals Standard and DEP's Ecological Study for Site-specific Metals Standards.

Report was postponed until the September meeting.

| Agenda Item #6: Final Regulations, Petition Process for Potentially Productive Aquifers.

Weinstein reported that the PPA regulations are ready to be filed. The regulations will be in the September 6, 1996 Massachusetts Register and will go into effect on September 9, 1996.

The WRC role will be to review petitions in 60 days and make a recommendation to the Commissioner of DEP.

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meeting minutes approved 9/12/96

VJG